

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 281035 Z MAY 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 371

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO UNN

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 304

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IC R IZ IR

SUBJECT: IRAQI- IRANIAN RELATIONS AND KURDISH PROBLEM

REF: BAGHDAD 266 (NOTAL)

1. IRANIAN CULTURAL COUNSELOR TOLD ME MAY 27 THAT AT MIDNIGHT ON MAY 7 GROUP OF 15 ARMED SECURITY AGENTS HAD BROKEN INTO IRANIAN SCHOOL (1,000 BOYS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY) AT NAJAF AND SEARCHED ENTIRE SCHOOL. WHEN THEY FAILED TO FIND ANYTHING THEY ROUTED THREE OF TEACHERS OUT OF BED AND TOOK THEM OFF IN THEIR PAJAMAS. TEACHERS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE.

2. IRANIAN INTERESTS SECTION HAS PROTESTED TO MFA BUT HAVE RECEIVED NEITHER EXPLANATION FOR RAID NOR INFORMATION ON TEACHERS. COUNSELOR SAID WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT THIS TIME HIS GOVT HAD REACTED AND ARRESTED THREE IRAQI TEACHERS. HE IS AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN RAID, BUT SUSPECTS SECURITY SERVICES ACTED

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ON BASIS FALSE CHARGES AGAINST SCHOOL.

3. SECRET MEETING OF IRAQI AND IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN GENEVA DURING LAST WEEK IN APRIL IS FAIRLY WIDELY KNOWN IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FAILURE TO AGREE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SHATT AL- ARAB PROBLEM. FRENCH AMB TOLD ME MAY 27 THAT HE HAD UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT ANOTHER MEETING (LEVEL UNSPECIFIED) HAD TAKEN PLACE AND IRAQIS HAD ACCEPTED THALACL LINE AS BORDER AND OFFERED OTHER CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR IRANIAN AGREEMENT TO HELP

REGULATE KURDISH PROBLEM. FRENCH AMB IS CONVINCED IRAQI DESIRE TO RESOLVE KURDISH PROBLEM IS BEHIND MOVES TOWARD DETENTE WITH IRAN AND THAT IT VERY MUCH IN WESTERN INTERESTS THAT SHAH MEET IRAQIS HALF WAY. RESOLUTION OF KURDISH PROBLEM WOULD, IN HIS VIEW, REMOVE LAST MAJOR ELEMENT OF SOVIET LEVERAGE HERE. LIKE OTHERS, HOWEVER, NCY IS SKEPTICAL THAT SHAH INTERESTED IN DETENTE SINCE IT SUITS HIS PURPOSES TO HAVE RADICAL, UN-FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR.

4. PRESSURE ON REGIME TO RESOLVE KURDISH PROBLEM INCREASES AS MARCH 1974 DATE APPROACHES. SECRET PROVISION OF 1970 MANIFESTO SET TIME LIMIT FOR FOUR YEARS, AFTER WHICH KURDS HAVE RIGHT TO EXERCISE AUTONOMY. FRENCH AMB SAYS KURDS HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO BAATH THAT PROVIDE FOR KURDISH REGIONAL LEGISLATURE WITH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. LOOSE FEDERAL UNION WOULD EXIST BETWEEN KURDS AND CENTRAL GOVT. KURD WOULD BE VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNTRY. SUCH PROPOSALS WOULD SEEM TO GO WELL BEYOND ANYTHING REGIME HAS IN MIND.

5. COMMENT: ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR CONTRADICTION BETWEEN IRAQI DIPLOMATIC MOVES TOWARD IRAN AND EVENTS IN NAJAF IS THAT SECURITY SERVICES CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS STATE WITHIN A STATE AND ELEMENTS WORKING FOR DETENTE NOT YET IN POSITION TO CHALLENGE OR CONTROL THEM THUS NO REAL PROGRESS TOWARD DETENTE HAS BEEN MADE. ANTI- IRANIAN PROPAGANDA IS, FOR EXAMPLE, STILL DAILY FARE IN PUBLIC MEDIA. LOWRIE

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